



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,344	10/20/2003	Kim Patrick Kobza	025058.0101PTUS	4221
32042	7590	02/15/2008	EXAMINER	
PATTON BOGGS LLP			TRUONG, CAM Y T	
8484 WESTPARK DRIVE				
SUITE 900			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MCLEAN, VA 22102			2162	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/15/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

AK 80

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/690,344	KOBZA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cam Y T. Truong	2162	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Cam Y T. Truong. (3) K. Kobza (Inventor).
(2) M. Frank (Attorney). (4) _____.

Date of Interview: 15 January 2008.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☒ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1.

Identification of prior art discussed: Nicastro.

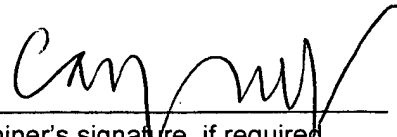
Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant's representative will replace claim limitation "classification" by "a group" to get over 112 first paragraph. Examiner agreed that the limitation "group" is provided in specification on paragraph 0015. Applicant's representative argued that the proposed amendment includes "a public -at-large" is different from the public of Nicastro. However, Examiner pointed out that "the public or internet" of Nicastro is same as the "public-at-large". Examiner will further consider the reference Nicastro and/or update a new search for the amendment when receiving application's response to the office action.

PTOL-413A (10-07)
 Approved for use through 10/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/690,344-Conf. #4221 First Named Applicant: Kim P. Kobza
 Examiner: C. Y. T. Truong Art Unit: 2162 Status of Application: Published

Tentative Participants:

(1) M. Frank (2) K. Kobza
 (3) M. Laskoski (4) Examiner Truong

Proposed Date of Interview: 1-15-08 Proposed Time: 1:00 PM (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☐ Telephonic (2) ☒ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>112 1st para</u>	<u>1-23</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>103 (a)</u>	<u>1, 41</u>	<u>Nicastro Rosnow</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See attached proposed Response and claim amendments. The claims require and are directed to public involvement projects. The present invention is not a closed system.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP §713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

 Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature

 Examiner/SPE Signature

 Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

 Registration Number, if applicable

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a public involvement project with a front end to provide information to a first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and to handle a large number of public comment inputs from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and a backend to receive and process the large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large, comprising:

a server computer operatively connected to a network;

a front end secure web portal for a the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large not acting in a capacity associated with managing the public involvement project to remotely access the server computer over the network;

wherein the front end secure web portal is capable of providing information regarding the public involvement project to the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and receiving a large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large,

an a backend access for a second classification of users comprising project team members acting in a capacity associated with managing the public involvement project to access the server computer;

402 3443000 [15]

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

a communications manager application for receiving a large number of public comment inputs from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and processing the large number of public comment inputs from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large for access by the second classification of users comprising project team members having:

an information module;

a project team tools module;

a communications tools module;

site management tools module;

wherein, at the front end of the system, the communications manager application receives a large number of public comment inputs from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large for providing information to the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and handling a large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project;

wherein, at the backend, the communications manager application processes the large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and the communications manager application is capable of being accessed by the second classification of users comprising project team members through the

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

backend access allowing the second classification of users comprising project team members to use and respond to the large number of public comment inputs from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large regarding the public involvement project;

wherein the backend is suitable for managing one or more public involvement projects;

and

wherein the server computer provides access, following authentication, by the first classification of users and the second classification of users to one or more of the information module, the project team tools module, the communications tools module, and the site management tools module.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the information module provides one or more of project overview, recent project changes, and project status.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one software interface for receiving the large number of public comment inputs public comments.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the at least one software interface comprises:

a first sub-interface for creating and submitting authenticating an individual selected from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large; and

a second sub-interface for receiving information about the individual selected from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the first and second interfaces are presented to the individual selected from the first classification of users comprising public users from the public-at-large in a seamless manner.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the project team tools module provides one or more of a task manager, related links, a project calendar, an image manager, a document library, a project showcase, a directory, a listing of team members, and electronic communications with team members.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the communications tool module provides one or more of web conferencing and message board.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the site management tools module provides one or more of site maintenance, survey maintenance, web trend tools, survey reports, public comment and public comment reports.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein further comprising a backend software interface for interactions with team members, the backend interface further comprises comprising:

an option for uploading documents,

an option for one or more of sorting and searching the large number of public comment inputs public submissions and documents in accordance with a specified search criteria; and

an option for filtering the large number of public comment inputs and documents public submissions.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the site management tools module includes screening public submission to identify the presence of inappropriate subject matter.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the identified inappropriate subject matter is sequestered for detailed review.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the project team tools include searching for public submissions in accordance with one or more of a keyword, a time of submission, an identifier, an idea, a theme and a vision.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the communications manager application further management module comprises:

shared modular code; and

means for responding to different browser implementations by invoking corresponding code.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the communications manager application management module further supports Web site maintenance by one or more of updating dynamic text areas, creating Web sites by using templates, handling multiple Web sites by using customizations of at least one shared feature, providing a separate address linked to a Web site for accepting the large number of public comment inputs ~~public comments~~, providing a separate address for accepting comments, automatic font and color adjustments, and supporting substantially unlimited number of active pages.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

15. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein work product is published on a Website substantially concurrently with its generation to invite comments to complete a feedback loop.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication manager application management module enables one or more of a public agency, a quasi public agency and an enterprise to manage the large number of public comment inputs public comments, managing comments from a select audience, support one or more teams of consultants, agency staff, stakeholder organizations relevant to one or more public involvement projects at the same time.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication manager application management module provides one or more of a public agency, a quasi public agency and an enterprise electronic project management with work-flow, document and image management, content management, Web-site management, and reporting technologies.

18. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein access is provided at a plurality of levels.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of access levels include User Manager for adding and assigning users to projects, Project Manager for creating new projects and having full access to the communications management module, and Team Member for having access to a limited number of modules with read/update privileges.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a public website maintenance interface for providing access to one or more of project overview, a timeline, a

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

document repository, an events calendar, an image manager, a public comment manager module, and a survey module.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the communications manager application management module can access the public website maintenance interface via a project site maintenance interface.

22. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the public comment module includes providing a submitter with one or more of an option of being notified of additional developments and participating in at least one survey.

23. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising modules for one or more of general information about a project, project goals, a project team, public documents, public notices, an image resource library, a project calendar, a project showcase, and a public comment module with one or more of a notification and survey functionality.

24. (Withdrawn) A communications manager contained in a computer-readable storage medium comprising:

an information module further comprising a project overview, project news and project status;

a project team tools module further comprising a task manager, calendar, team access management, team communications and image manager;

a communications tools module further comprising one or more message boards and web conferencing;

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

a site management tools module further comprising web site content updating, document library, image library, project directory, event calendar and internal maintenance; and

wherein the communication manager provides access, following authentication, to one or more of the information module, the project team tools module, the communications tools module, and the site management tools module.

25. (Withdrawn) The communications manager module of claim 24 further comprising a plurality of access levels including User Manager for adding and assigning users to projects, Project Manager for creating new projects and having full access to the communications management module, and Team Member for having access to a limited number of modules with read/update privileges.

26. (Withdrawn) An interface for a Web site coupled to the communications manager of claim 24 comprising a plurality of links selected from links to general information about a project, project goals, a project team, documents, notices, an image resource library, a project calendar, a project showcase, and a comment module.

27. (Withdrawn) The interface of claim 26, wherein the comment module further includes one or more of a notification and survey functionality.

28. (Withdrawn) The interface of claim 26, wherein the single point of entry is provided by requiring authentication of one or more of a username, a password, an encrypted session, and a challenge-response protocol.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

29. (Withdrawn) A method of using updated comments from a Web site coupled to the communications manager of claim 24, comprising:

authenticating a submitter;

receiving a plurality of comments from the submitter;

storing the plurality of comments from the submitter with other comments received at the Web site;

retrieving comments by the submitter by carrying out a search;

organizing the retrieved comments chronologically to prepare an updated comment; and

using the updated comment in a comment report.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein a proposed rule is modified in response to the comment report.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of updating a posted issue inviting comments at a public Web site coupled to the communications manager of claim 24, comprising:

posting an issue at the public Web site with a specified date for receiving responses;

reviewing submissions received on the posted issue at the public Web site; and

modifying the posted issue in response to the comments prior to the expiry of the

specified date for receiving responses, whereby subsequent responses are directed to the modified posted issue.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

32. (Withdrawn) A communications manager contained in a computer-readable storage medium comprising:

an information module for welcoming a user and referencing permission level access, wherein the information module further comprises a project overview, project news and project status,

a project team tools module for coordinating and informing team members, wherein the project team tools module further comprises a task manager, calendar, team access management, team communications and image manager,

a communications tools module for facilitating information transfer, wherein the communications tools module further comprises one or more message boards and web conferencing,

a site management tools module for updating communications work environments and global settings, wherein the site management tools module further comprises web site content updating, document library, image library, project directory, event calendar and internal maintenance; and

wherein the communication manager provides access to one or more of the information module, the project team tools module, the communications tools module, and the site management tools module.

33. (Withdrawn) The communications manager of claim 32, wherein the communications manager provides access, following authentication to the information module,

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

the project team tools module, the communications tools module, and the site management tools module.

34. (Withdrawn) The communications manager of claim 32, wherein the communications manager facilitates public communication and public comment.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of dispensing public information and processing comments from a public comment procedure comprising:

creating and posting a proposal of interest to the public-at-large on a server computer connected to a network,

receiving one or more comments from the public-at-large through the server computer connected to the network,

searching the one or more comments from the public-at-large,

organizing the one or more comments from the public-at-large,

generating a summary of the one or more comments, and

generating a report based upon the summary of the one or more comments.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising modifying the report.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising modifying the proposal of interest based upon the report.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising modifying the one or more comments.

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising allowing dynamic feedback in agency decision making based on the one or more comments.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the dispensing public information and processing comments from a public comment procedure pertains to a charette.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a public involvement project with a front end to provide information to a first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and to handle a large number of public comment inputs from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and a backend to receive and process the large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large comprising:

providing a communications manager application for receiving a large number of public comment inputs from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and processing the large number of public comment inputs from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large for access by the second group of users comprising project team members on a server computer having an information module, a project team tools module, a communications tools module, and a site management tools module,

providing a front end secure web portal for a first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large to remotely access the communications manager application, wherein the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large acts in a capacity not associated with managing the public involvement project,

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

wherein the front end secure web portal is capable of providing information regarding the public involvement project to the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and receiving a large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large,

providing a backend ~~an~~ access to the communications manager application for a second group of users comprising project team members, wherein the second group of users comprising project team members acts in a capacity associated with managing the public involvement project,

allowing the second group of users comprising project team members to submit the large number of public comment inputs to create, post or revise a proposal regarding the public involvement project of public interest,

receiving ~~one or more comments~~ the large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large at the front end, and

reviewing and processing the ~~one or more comments~~ large number of public comment inputs regarding the proposal of public involvement at a backend,

wherein, at the backend, the communications manager application processes the large number of public comment inputs regarding the public involvement project from the first group of users comprising public users from the public-at-large and the communications manager application is capable of being accessed by the second group of users comprising project team members through the backend access

Application No. 10/690,344

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

allowing the second group of users comprising project team members to use and respond to the large number of public comment inputs from the first group of users comprising public uses from the public-at-large regarding the public involvement project, and

wherein the backend is suitable for managing one or more public involvement projects.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, further comprising generating a modified proposal based upon reviewing the large number of public comment inputs ~~the one or more comments.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising recreating, reposting or revising the public involvement project ~~proposal of public interest.~~

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the information module further comprises a project overview, recent project changes, and project status.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the project team tools module further comprises a task manager, related links, a project calendar, an image manager, a document library, a project showcase, a directory, a listing of team members, and electronic communications with team members.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the communications tool module further comprises web conferencing and one or more message boards.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the site management tools module further comprises site maintenance, survey maintenance, web trend tools, survey reports, public comment and public comment reports.